

42 U.S.C.A § 3796gg-6

Legal assistance for victims

(a) In general

The purpose of this section is to enable the Attorney General to award grants to increase the availability of civil and criminal legal assistance necessary to provide effective aid to adult and youth victims of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault who are seeking relief in legal matters arising as a consequence of that abuse or violence, at minimal or no cost to the victims. Criminal legal assistance provided for under this section shall be limited to criminal matters relating to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

(b) Definitions

In this section, the definitions provided in section 40002 of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 shall apply.

(c) Legal assistance for victims grants

The Attorney General may award grants under this subsection to private nonprofit entities, Indian tribal governments, and tribal organizations, territorial organizations and publicly funded organizations not acting in a governmental capacity such as law schools, and which shall be used--

- (1)** to implement, expand, and establish cooperative efforts and projects between domestic violence, dating violence, and sexual assault victim services organizations and legal assistance providers to provide legal assistance for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual assault;
- (2)** to implement, expand, and establish efforts and projects to provide legal assistance for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual assault by organizations with a demonstrated history of providing direct legal or advocacy services on behalf of these victims; and
- (3)** to provide training, technical assistance, and data collection to improve the capacity of grantees and other entities to offer legal assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual assault.

(d) Eligibility

To be eligible for a grant under subsection (c) of this section, applicants shall certify in writing that--

- (1)** any person providing legal assistance through a program funded under subsection

(c) of this section has completed or will complete training in connection with domestic violence, dating violence, or sexual assault and related legal issues;

(2) any training program conducted in satisfaction of the requirement of paragraph (1) has been or will be developed with input from and in collaboration with a tribal, State, territorial, or local domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking organization or coalition, as well as appropriate tribal, State, territorial, and local law enforcement officials;

(3) any person or organization providing legal assistance through a program funded under subsection (c) of this section has informed and will continue to inform State, local, or tribal domestic violence, dating violence, or sexual assault programs and coalitions, as well as appropriate State and local law enforcement officials of their work; and

(4) the grantee's organizational policies do not require mediation or counseling involving offenders and victims physically together, in cases where sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or child sexual abuse is an issue.

(e) Evaluation

The Attorney General may evaluate the grants funded under this section through contracts or other arrangements with entities expert on domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual assault, and on evaluation research.

(f) Authorization of appropriations

(1) In general

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$65,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2011.

(2) Allocation of funds

(A) Tribal programs

Of the amount made available under this subsection in each fiscal year, not less than 10 percent shall be used for grants for programs that assist adult and youth victims of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual assault on lands within the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe.

(B) Victims of sexual assault

Of the amount made available under this subsection in each fiscal year, not less than 25 percent shall be used for direct services, training, and technical assistance to support projects focused solely or primarily on providing legal assistance to victims

of sexual assault.

(3) Nonsupplantation

Amounts made available under this section shall be used to supplement and not supplant other Federal, State, and local funds expended to further the purpose of this section.

(4) Not less than 10 percent of the total amount available under this section for each fiscal year shall be available for grants under the program authorized in section 3796gg-10 of this title. The requirements of this paragraph shall not apply to funds allocated for such program.